

USSN: 10/810,069

Docket No.: 55752US018

Remarks

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 27, 32, 43-47, 50, 51, 56 and 66 have been amended as shown above. Antecedent basis for the phrase "moving web substrate passing from an unwind reel to a takeup reel" may be found in the written description at, e.g., paragraphs 0003 and 0051. Following entry of this amendment, claims 2-8, 17-21, 23, 24, 27-51, 56, 57 and 62-69 will be pending in this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for extending to the undersigned attorney the courtesy of a telephonic interview on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. The Examiner confirmed that claims 27-51, 56, 57 and 62-69 were inadvertently said in the Summary Sheet for the Office Action mailed August 16, 2005 to have been allowed, that claims 27-31 and 33-34 were also rejected in the Office Action and should be deemed to have been rejected and not allowed, and that claims 56, 57 and 62-69 were also objected to in the Office Action (as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form) and should be deemed to have been objected to and not allowed. An amendment to replace the phrase "moving substrate of indefinite length" and the arguments set out below were also discussed during the interview.

Objected-to claims 18, 32, 43, 44, 47, 50, 56, and 66 have been rewritten in independent form so that they incorporate all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. These claims and dependent claims 45, 46, 48, 49, 51, 57, 62-65 and 67-69 should thus be allowable.

Rejected claims 2-5, 7, 8, 17, 27-31 and 33-42 should be allowable in view of the arguments set out below.

Rejection of Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 17, 27-31 and 33-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 17, 27-31 and 33-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,536,333 (Foote et al.), on grounds that:

"Foote et al shows the coating applicator (74, 76, 78, fig. 6), curing station (86, fig. 6), close coupled enclosures (fig. 1), conditioned gas and reduction of particle count (col. 3, line 49, This reduction occurs inherently in such a controlled environment., fig. 6),

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solidified coating (86, fig. 1), transient zone (78, 144, fig. 1), different headspaces, footspaces (fig. 6), conditioned gas is carried along (This will inherently occur), supplied and withdrawn (col. 11, lines 50-65) seals (146, 152, fig. 2), pressure gradient (col. 11, line 63), material difference in operating pressures (146, fig. 6, col. 11, line 63)." (See the Office Action at page 3, first paragraph).

and that:

"The applicant argues that Foote et al. do not coat a substrate of indefinite length. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Claims in a pending application should be given their broadest reasonable interpretation. In this case the examiner does not believe that it is unreasonable for the reference to read on the claim limitations. As can be seen from the cited figure the apparatus processes substrates of various or indefinite lengths. Therefore, the reference reads on the claim limitation." (See the Office Action at page 2, first paragraph).

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Reconsideration is requested. Foote et al. do not show a process or apparatus for coating a "moving web substrate passing from an unwind reel to a takeup reel" as recited in rejected claims 2-5, 7, 8, 17, 27-31, 33, 34, 35, 36-41 and 42. Foote et al. coat discrete glass sheets 24 while sealing them inside deposition station 70 using valves 138 and 144:

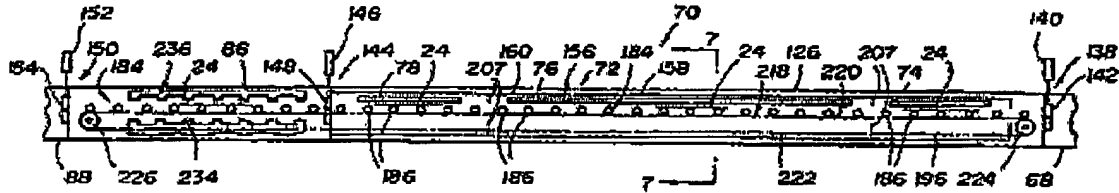


Fig. 6

Foote et al. do not address (and are not germane to) the difficulties posed when coating a moving web. Applicant accordingly requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 2-5, 7, 8, 17, 27-31 and 33-42 as being anticipated by Foote et al.

Conclusion

Foote et al. do not show a process or apparatus for coating a moving web substrate passing from an unwind reel to a takeup reel. The rejected claims are not anticipated and should be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney at 612-331-7412 if there are any unanswered questions concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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